

**REMARKS**

Claim 14 and the Specification are amended herein. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-12 and 14-17 are pending and under consideration.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully traversed. Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites distilled water inside of the closed space. The Examiner relies upon column 6, lines 60-62 of Hirst as teaching this feature. However, this portion does not specify distilled water, but instead refers to water. It is further noted that the Office previously indicated that Hirst did not teach this feature. April 5, 2005 Office Action, page 3, line 18. Instead, the Office relied upon Lee, which is not eligible as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Independent claim 1, used again as an example, recites the heating member and the heating roller rotate in opposite directions. The Examiner relies upon the combination of Hirst and Romem. However, Romem does not teach that the heating member and the heating roller rotate in opposite directions, as set forth by the Examiner. In Romem, the inner cylinder 18 and outer cylinder 16 rotate opposite to each other. However, the inner cylinder 18 of Romem does not correspond to the claimed heating member. Instead, Romem teaches a heating element 11 with no teaching as to the rotational direction thereof.

Furthermore, it is submitted that the Examiner's combination is not proper, since the combination would have required modifications to Hirst that are not taught in either of the references. FIG. 4 of Hirst illustrates that the inner tube 210 is received by the bearing 404 and attached to the outer tube 212 by a spacer 304. The spacer 304 is braised or welded between the tubes 210 and 212. Hirst, col. 6, ln. 32-33. According to this arrangement, the tubes 210 and 212 rotate together.

In order for the tubes 210 and 212 to rotate in opposite directions, the spacer 304 which fixes these elements together would have to be replaced. Furthermore, another bearing arrangement would have to be introduced in order to accommodate the rotation of the tube 212, as well as an element to drive the rotation of the tube 212. However, the need for these modifications and the solutions to these needs are not taught in either of the references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 1-18-06

By:   
Michael J. Badagliacca  
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501